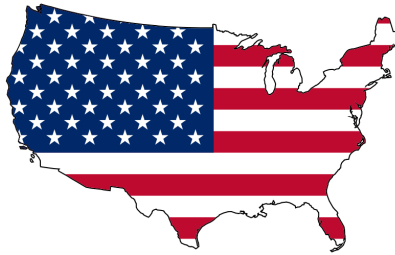


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 10
May 18 - June 3, 2010

Contents:

1. Obama Seeks Security Through Peace, Cooperation

The highest priorities of U.S. national security are the safety of Americans at home and abroad and achieving a peaceful, stable world through global cooperation despite a flawed international system, President Obama says. ...

2. Congress Moves Closer to Remaking US Financial System

Far-reaching financial system reform is taking shape in the United States as a newly passed Senate bill is being reconciled with an earlier House of Representatives measure. Industry lobbyists and consumer advocates now try to influence the final shape of the measure. ...

3. New US Cooperation for International Criminal Court

The Obama administration's increased engagement with the international community is being seen in a new, constructive approach to the International Criminal Court, which officials see as being necessary when national and local courts lack the will or capacity to prosecute atrocities. ...

4. Soccer More than Just a Sport, Groups Say

The month long 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament beginning June 11 in South Africa makes it timely to showcase several global youth programs that illustrate how democracy and soccer are intertwined in valuing equality, tolerance and the chance to improve one's status in life. ...

5. Memorial Day Holiday Honors American War Dead

The Memorial Day holiday celebrated by Americans on the last Monday of May represents for many the unofficial beginning of summer. But most will pause at some point to recall the holiday's true purpose: honoring those who died defending their nation. ...

6. President Obama Honors Singer Paul McCartney at White House

President Obama makes remarks honoring Paul McCartney, winner of this year's Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador Reeker gives his remarks at the GLOBE Conference in Ohrid. (LP)

Think Globally, Act Locally

June 2, 2010

"Think Globally, Act Locally" was the mantra for the annual European Country Coordinator's meeting for GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment) held on June 2 in Ohrid. Ambassador Reeker, the Mayor of Ohrid, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Education joined representatives from 23 nations to discuss the growing need to be environmentally sustainable. Launched in 1995 by former Vice President Al Gore, GLOBE is a worldwide, hands-on, education and science program that promotes and supports students, teachers and scientists to collaborate on inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the Earth's system. Ambassador Reeker emphasized the need for international cooperation and exchange of ideas in order to combat global climate change and highlighted efforts the United States has made to help Macedonia become more environmentally conscientious.

- ♦ To see a copy of his remarks, please [click here](#).
- ♦ To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).



MakeDox Festival Opens with American Documentary

June 5-11, 2010

Several hundred film-goers gathered in the open air under starry evening skies in the Kursumli An for the Grand Opening of the MakeDox Documentary Film Festival with the screening of the American documentary, "The Cove." Supported by a grant from the U.S. Embassy, the MakeDox Festival features international documentaries focusing on human and animal rights as well as use of music for cultural expression. The goal of the festival is to bring new audiences to documentary film-making as well as to use the latest in digital technology to show the films al fresco in Skopje the week of June 5-12 and then take the show on the road to cities across Macedonia this summer. Additional U.S. produced documentaries include "Stolen," "Moog" and "The Heart is a Drum Machine."...[Main programme](#).



Ambassador Reeker joins the lead panel to honor 144 college and high school graduates who were supported by the USAID Roma Education Project (REP)/ LP

[Roma Students Aim High with Help from USAID](#)

May 28, 2010

On May 28, Ambassador Reeker joined several prominent members of the Roma Community to honor 144 college and high school graduates who were supported by the USAID Roma Education Project (REP). REP began in 2004 with the primary objective of helping Roma children remain in school and to improve their academic achievements. Since 1993, the American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in projects designed to promote advancements in education, economic growth and democracy in Macedonia. Over 1400 Roma students have directly benefited from REP activities each project year. Ambassador Reeker emphasized the importance of empowering Roma people through education because it is the most powerful tool for improving the lives of people and developing a better society. The U.S. Embassy congratulates all the recent graduates!

- ◇ To see a copy of his remarks, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).



Embassy Consular Officer Lauren May explaining the [New Online Visa Application Form \(DS-160\)](#) on A1 TV morning program "RANODEN", May 27, 2010.

[U.S. Embassy Skopje Launches New Online Visa Application Form](#)

May 27, 2010

Beginning May 31st, the Consular Section of the United States Embassy in Skopje will require the new, online visa application form (DS-160) for all applicants. The new electronic form is more eco-friendly, as it requires that applicants print out and bring only a single confirmation page to their interview (currently, applicants must provide 3-5 pages). Additionally, the new form is more comprehensive than the current form and will allow consular officers to more quickly and accurately assess an applicant's visa eligibility, which will shorten the length of visa interviews.

- ◇ To see Consul Lauren May explaining the **New Online Visa Application Form (DS-160)**, please check out the [\(A1 TV in Macedonian | ALSAT - M TV in Albanian\)](#).
- ◇ For more information on the new form, please [click here](#).



Students from Asdreni Primary School in Tearce dancing on the open stage in front of the large number of visitors at the closing ceremony of the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP)/LP

Improving Education Through Teacher Training and School Renovation

May 27, 2010

On May 27, Public Affairs Officer Ryan Rowlands and USAID Primary Education Project (PEP) Chief, Keith Prenton, attended a project completion ceremony at the Asdreni Primary school in Tearce in which the U.S. Government contributed new, energy-efficient windows to the school. Students of various ages danced and sang in a wonderful celebration put together by the school community. PAO Ryan

Rowlands expressed that he was pleased to see that the community of teachers, students and parents work together to create a positive teaching environment for the children at Asdreni Primary School. The Asdreni Primary school is the 85th school to receive renovation funds from USAID which is in the process of investing more than three million US dollars to renovate 120 primary schools in Macedonia by 2011. Several teachers who received training as a part of this project were also recognized during the ceremony and Mayor Isen Asani praised them and School Director Jakup Ahmeti for their dedication to improving their teaching techniques.

♦ To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker talks with the youth participants at the closing ceremony of the OFFS Event.(LP)

Ambassador Reeker Visits the OFFS project for sports and leadership in Gostivar

May 22, 2010

On Saturday, May 22 Ambassador Philip Reeker joined Mayor Rufi Osmani from Gostivar and Mayor Mukrem Memedi from Mavrovo-Rostushe at the closing ceremony of the project implemented by the Open Fun Football Schools focusing on increasing interethnic cooperation among youth of various ethnic and religious groups in Macedonia. The sports and

leadership project gathered 250 children from the municipalities of Gostivar and Mavrovo-Rostushe and was supported by both municipalities. Following the OFFS event Ambassador Philip Reeker met and discussed the current political situation and the developments in the municipality of Gostivar with Mayor Osmani. Later the Ambassador met with DUI leader Ali Ahmeti, and used the opportunity to reiterate his support for Macedonia's membership in NATO and the European Union and continued implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement.

♦ To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).



Public Affairs Officer Ryan Rowlands and mayor of Bitola, Vladimir Talevski cut the ribbon at the Opening of the new American Education Center in Bitola. (LP)

New Testing Center Opens in Bitola

May 19, 2010

The American Corner in Bitola teamed with the municipality of Bitola, primary school Goce Delcev and the U.S. Embassy to open an expanded educational advising and testing center. This will allow students in Bitola and the surrounding area to learn more about study in the United States and offer tests required by American universities for admission. In the past these tests were only offered in Skopje and both Mayor Talevski and Public Affairs Officer Ryan Rowlands recognized this was a huge benefit for Bitola and the wider region. They also underscored that this was further evidence of the strong friendship between the United States and Macedonia.

◇ To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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